

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman LUETKEMEYER and Ranking Member CLEAVER for their leadership, commitment and effort to modernizing and improving Federal Housing programs for millions of Americans who are working their way up to economic empowerment and stability.

I wish to thank Chairman SESSIONS, Ranking Member SLAUGHTER, and the members of the Rules Committee.

I acknowledge and appreciate the bipartisan efforts by my colleagues across the aisle to modernize and improve Federal housing programs as anticipated in H.R. 3700, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2015.

For instance, H.R. 3700 contains provisions that would modify core rental assistance programs such as the Housing Choice Vouchers, Public Housing, and Project-Based Rental Assistance, homelessness prevention and assistance programs, and Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance for condominiums.

Additionally, H.R. 3700 amends the Rural Housing Service program in the Department of Agriculture.

Some of its provisions would help streamline the administration of HUD programs.

For instance, this legislation will facilitate income determination for tenants and housing quality inspections for assisted rental housing.

Another provision of the bill seeks to expand flexibility between public housing operating and capital funds.

The legislation seeks to provide additional flexibility to public housing agencies to conditionally approve housing voucher units with non-life threatening deficiencies in order to allow families immediate access.

Although these many provisions of the legislation are commendable, we hope to see improvements in provisions that have been identified as potentially increasing administrative burden and have unintended consequences.

We want to make sure that deductions for child care and medical expense deductions would not adversely impact the lowest income households.

I share the Administration's concern with the delegation of the authority to grant exceptions to HUD requirements to the lenders approving projects under the Direct Endorsement Lender Review and Approval Process.

Another major issue appears to be that the delegation of authority does not appear to pro-

vide HUD with sufficient ability to set standards for exceptions and oversee their application and procedure.

There are also concerns that other FHA requirements in the bill may create future difficulties for HUD in implementing timely and consistent program changes in response to market conditions.

I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle as we are working to continue to improve the bill as it moves forward.

RESTORING AMERICANS' HEALTHCARE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2015—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in agreement with President Obama's decision to veto H.R. 3762. If enacted, the bill would have repealed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and defunded Planned Parenthood, limiting healthcare options for millions of Americans.

ACA is working. The Affordable Care Act and its health exchanges are helping previously uninsured people acquire access to high-quality, affordable health insurance plans.

The ACA expands coverage to include patients with pre-existing conditions, allows young adults to stay on their parent's family plan until age 26, and provides financial subsidies towards insurance premiums. In the days leading up to the deadline for the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace's third open enrollment season, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported over 8.9 million people had signed up for health insurance coverage.

To meet demand, I facilitated several enrollment and education fairs throughout my south Texas district in collaboration with local partners in the Enroll Rio Grande Valley Coalition. Community members had the opportunity to speak to certified application counselors and sign up for insurance before the January 31st deadline.

I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues want to return to a time where women paid more for medical insurance than men and where patients could be denied coverage based on their previous health history. We cannot in good conscience strip affordable medical coverage from over an estimated 22 million people that have gained peace of mind since ACA's passage in 2010.

Instead of enacting destructive legislation such as H.R. 3762, we must work together and build upon the Affordable Care Act and its successes. I am confident that we can collaborate to improve the current law and continue to expand protections for our country's most vulnerable populations.

RESTORING AMERICANS' HEALTHCARE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2015—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the President's veto of H.R. 3762, the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act.

The President was right to veto this irresponsible and mean-spirited legislation because it neither restores healthcare or freedom.

I will proudly vote to sustain the President's veto.

This bill is not a serious effort to address this nation's budgetary needs and its details reveal that it is another opportunity for the majority to hide behind legislative gimmicks in an attempt to kill the Affordable Care Act.

This is a waste of taxpayer money and this body's legislative calendar, which has too few days left for wasting any of our time voting on bills that the President has communicated in writing that he will veto.

The President was right to veto H.R. 3762 because it:

1. continues the majority's relentless crusade to put barriers between women and their right to have the healthcare provider and services that they want and need;

2. repeals individual responsibility requirements that people must have their own health insurance;

3. repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which works to keep Medicare solvent; and

4. repeals the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which supports evidence-based programs designed to keep Americans healthy, prevent chronic and infectious diseases and reduce future healthcare cost.

The news from across the nation regarding the healthcare freedom and choice created by the Affordable Care Act for first time health insurance consumers is overwhelmingly positive.

Unfortunately, today the majority has targeted a women's right to control her own healthcare by attempting to defund Planned Parenthood.

The partisan and mean-spirited nature of H.R. 3762 is illustrated by the fact that House Republicans have opted to proceed with this veto override vote notwithstanding the fact that after an exhaustive investigation lasting more than 5 months and led by a strongly pro-life Republican District Attorney, a grand jury in Harris County, Texas completely exonerated Planned Parenthood of the false, malicious, and scurrilous charge of trafficking in the sale of fetal body parts.

Instead, the grand jury returned indictments against the producers of the doctored videos.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, in my home state of Texas, a law that would have cut off access to 75 percent of reproductive healthcare clinics in the state was challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2014 and 2015.

On October 2, 2014, the Supreme Court made unconstitutional a Texas law that required that all reproduction healthcare clinics that provided the full range of services would be required to have a hospital-style surgery center building and staffing requirements.

This requirement meant only 7 clinics would be allowed to continue to provide a full spectrum of reproductive healthcare to women.

In 2015, the State of Texas once again threatened women's access to reproductive health care when it attempted to shutter all but 10 healthcare providers in the state of Texas.

The Supreme Court once again intervened on behalf of Texas women to block the move to close clinics in my state.

New attacks on women are now being couched with renewed attacks against the Affordable Care Act, which the majority has attempted to overturn with over 50 votes since its enactment.

The attacks against Planned Parenthood is a social and economic statement that if you are a woman with money you have the right to think for yourself regarding your healthcare choices, but if you are poor or lack healthcare options you do not have that same right.

Millions of women now have free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive medical services.

The reality is women who face difficult health care decisions do not do so lightly.

Women in this nation have a right to self-determination.

It is fundamental human right and one that should be cherished.

The most important right is the ability of each person to determine their destiny and this right has to be freely exercised.

Healthcare has become a fundamental right for our nation's citizens with the best possible outcomes for the millions of people who had no healthcare due to pre-existing illnesses or were penalized with higher premiums for pre-existing conditions.

Because of the Affordable Healthcare Act:

1. 100 million Americans no longer have a life-time limit on healthcare coverage.

2. 17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers.

3. 6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans.

4. 6.3 million Seniors in the "donut hole" have saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs.

5. 3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare, and

6. 360,000 Small Businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers.

Statistics on Texas and the Affordable Care Act reveal that:

1. 3.8 million Texas residents receive preventive care services.

2. 7 million Texans no longer have lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance.

3. 300,731 young adults can remain on their parents' health insurance until age 26.

4. 5 million Texas residents can receive a rebate check from their insurance company if it does not spend 80 percent of premium dollars on healthcare.

5. 4,029 people with pre-existing conditions now have health insurance.

This year for the first time insurance companies are banned from:

1. discriminating against anyone with a pre-existing condition;

2. charging higher rates based on gender or health status;

3. enforcing lifetime dollar limits; and

4. enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

Few people knew that health insurers viewed pregnancy as a pre-existing condition.

Because of the Affordable Care Act women can no longer be charged a higher rate just because they are women.

Attempts to weaken or end the ACA are wrong.

A January 2015, Gallup poll revealed that nationally the uninsured rate in the United States was reduced to 12.9%.

The uninsured rate nationally dropped 4.2% points since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act.

We are becoming a nation of equals when it comes to access to affordable healthcare insurance.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to sustain President Obama's veto of this latest Republican effort to turn the clock back on women's rights and the healthcare safety-net that is assuring longer and healthier lives for millions of Americans.

SUPPORTING PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN AND THE PROPOSED SOUTH CHINA SEA PEACE INITIATIVE ROAD MAP

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China (Taiwan) visited Taiping Island in the Nansha Islands ahead of the Lunar New Year to see the guards and medical staff stationed there. He unveiled "the South China Sea Peace Initiative Road Map" which could be applied as a reference to the parties concerned in the region. The content of the South China Sea Peace Initiative Road Map is stated as below:

"1. "Yes" to cooperation, "no" to confrontation: A cooperation and development mechanism that contributes to peace and prosperity in the South China Sea should first be established, and sovereignty disputes should be set aside for future resolution through peaceful means.

2. "Yes" to sharing, "no" to monopolizing: A cooperation and development mechanism should ensure equal participation and resource sharing among all parties concerned in the region in order to avoid undermining the rights and interests of any party.

3. "Yes" to pragmatism, "no" to intransigence: The initial focus should be on aspects which are beneficial to all parties concerned and on which consensus can be easily achieved; various cooperation items should be pragmatically and gradually promoted so as to avoid missing out on cooperation opportunities as a result of any party insisting on its position.

The viable path consists of shelving disputes, integrated planning, and zonal development. The two essential elaborations are: First, all parties concerned in the region should be included in the consultation mechanism for this initiative so that they can engage in cooperation and negotiations on integrated planning for the South China Sea. Second, the cooperation and consultation mechanism proposed in this initiative should be a provisional arrangement of a practical nature, and should not undermine the position of any party concerned or jeopardize or hamper the reaching of a final agreement on the South China Sea."

As a member of the Taiwan Congressional Caucus, I am glad to see that the national leader of Taiwan is willing to provide a peaceful approach to decrease the tension in this region.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT MATTHEW VANDERSLICE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Matt Vanderslice of the United States Coast Guard for his extraordinary actions on February 15, 2015.

Lieutenant Vanderslice, a native of Stonington, Connecticut, was accepted into the prestigious U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where he graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Operations Research and Computer Analysis. While at the Academy, he was known to be an avid member of the rowing team and served as the team captain his senior year.

Following commissioning, Lieutenant Vanderslice served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the USCGC *Hollyhock*, a 225-foot ice breaking buoy tender home ported near Detroit, Michigan. During his two year tenure, he sailed all five Great Lakes before being accepted to the flight training program.

Upon completion of helicopter pilot training, Lieutenant Vanderslice was stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod Massachusetts for three years as a duty standing helicopter pilot. It was during this time, assigned as the co-pilot of the helicopter CGNR 6033, that Lieutenant Vanderslice, along with three other crewmembers, were tasked with responding to a distress signal picked up by the Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center in Boston from the fishing vessel *Sedona*. The *Sedona* was stranded 200 nautical miles off the coast of Cape Cod.

Lieutenant Vanderslice and the aircraft commander, Lieutenant Hess, exhibited exceptional skill as they safely navigated through near-zero visibility, 55 knot winds, and unrelenting snow and sleet. Even when extreme weather conditions caused equipment to malfunction and act erratically, Lieutenant Vanderslice was able to locate the vessel by manipulating the aircraft's avionics system and by making precise fuel calculations. His calm professionalism inspired the rest of the crew to remain confident and focused, which was essential to successful mission completion. In addition to his calm yet quick thinking, he managed to keep the operational commander apprised of mission progress, keep the aircraft

clear of the *Sedona* as it was tossed about in the violent seas, and carefully manage fuel burn rates—giving Lieutenant Hess the ability to focus all of his attention on keeping the aircraft in a safe hoisting position. As CGNR 6033 returned to base, Lieutenant Vanderslice communicated with air traffic control and the operational commander to coordinate arrival procedures and initiate medical treatment for the survivors. Lieutenant Vanderslice maintained exceptional composure for the entirety of the mission.

Lieutenant Vanderslice has since received orders to Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, Alaska, where he continues to fly the MH-60T on various Coast Guard missions. Lieutenant Vanderslice is married to Stephanie, his wife of 3 years. In his spare time, he is a passionate guitar player and roasts the best coffee in Sitka.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in honor of Lieutenant Matthew Vanderslice, who perfectly exemplifies the highest standards of the United States Coast Guard. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this distinguished member of our Armed Services and wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING BRIANNA DUDA
ON RECEIVING THE CITIZEN
SCHOLAR AWARD FROM MISSOURI
STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brianna Duda, an outstanding student at Missouri State University, on her selection to receive the Citizen Scholar Award.

Each year, this prestigious award is given by Missouri State University's Board of Governors to students who have contributed to the university, furthered the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments and/or in important service activities in the community. Since the award was created in 2007, only forty-seven students have been recognized for their stellar achievements.

Brianna, from St. Louis, Missouri, was one of six exceptional students to receive the award this year. She is currently a junior socio-political communication major with a minor in political science. Brianna has been recognized for her skills in identifying intersections of identities and historically excluded groups. She has navigated these issues with great maturity, while addressing the conflict and barriers surrounding them with grace.

Mr. Speaker, Brianna Duda's accomplishments have set a great example of what a Citizen Scholar should be, this award represents a great deal of her hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent students like her and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved achievement.

IN MEMORY OF LT. COL. MICHAEL
MIERAU

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Lt. Col. Michael Mierau, who passed away just last week on January 29, 2016.

Lt. Col. Mierau served in the U.S. Army for 26 years. In 1956, he received a nomination to attend the United States Military Academy, where he later graduated in June of 1960, finishing ninth in rank of order of merit. Following his graduation, he was commissioned as an infantry officer and was deployed overseas several times, including tours in West Germany, Vietnam, and what is now South Korea. Lt. Col. Mierau had a decorated military career, earning the Parachute Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal with V Device.

After Lt. Col. Mierau retired from the U.S. Army, he founded a consulting company and continued to use his experience in the military by serving as a volunteer member of the Washington State Army Advisory Board, working as a U.S. Military Academy Field Force member in the 17th Congressional District of Ohio, and joining the Board of Governors of the West Point Society of Washington and Puget Sound.

Lt. Col. Mierau is survived by his wife Julie Mierau and five children and stepchildren, several of whom have followed in his footsteps and joined the military.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Lt. Col. Mierau for his service to our community and country and for his friendship. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
RETIREMENT OF KARY "BERNARD"
EVANS, MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS DISTRICT
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR
THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the career and retirement of Bernard Evans, who has served as the Military and Veterans Affairs Field Representative for the First Congressional District of Mississippi for the past five years. Bernard's work is personal for him. As a Vietnam Veteran, he served with the 173rd Petroleum Co. in Phu Bai, Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. After 28 years of military service, he retired from the Mississippi National Guard. Bernard had an impressive career with the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. During his 25 years of service, he performed a multitude of roles before retiring with the rank of Lieutenant. He has also worked with the Department of Corrections as a probation officer, the Lee County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff, and as the Lee County Veterans Service Officer.

A life-long resident of Mississippi, Bernard is also a man committed to his faith and family. He has been married to his wife, Gail White Evans, for 24 years and together they have five children, 14 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is a member of the Saltillo First United Methodist Church. In his spare time his hobbies include antique cars, motorcycles, and traveling. He is a lifetime member of the American Legion, Military Officers Association of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the National Rifle Association. He is also the President of the Tupelo Veterans Park Council.

Veterans in the First Congressional District of Mississippi were given invaluable guidance and support from Bernard Evans. I would like to take this time to thank Bernard for his continued commitment to providing assistance and care for our returning veterans. I know he will continue to accomplish great things for the state of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT
JOHN D. HESS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lieutenant John D. Hess of the United States Coast Guard and his extraordinary actions on February 15, 2015.

Lieutenant Hess, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard after completing Coast Guard basic training in 1997. He went on to prove himself extremely capable on assignments aboard the USCGC *Victorious* and at Coast Guard Stations Ashtabula and Chatham. Upon receiving his commission in 2004, Lieutenant Hess attended Officer Candidate School (OCS) in New London, Connecticut, and went on to receive his wings of gold in 2006.

As an aviator, Lieutenant Hess's first assignment was as an MH-60 Jayhawk pilot at Air Station Clearwater, Florida. There, he served as an Instructor Pilot and subsequently a Flight Examiner. He transferred to Air Station Cape Cod in Massachusetts where he served in the same role as well as Aircraft Commander aboard CGNR 6033.

It was during this time, on February 15, 2015, that Lieutenant Hess—along with the other three crewmembers aboard CGNR 6033—responded to a distress signal picked up by the Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center in Boston from the fishing vessel *Sedona*, which was floundering two hundred nautical miles off the coast of Cape Cod.

Lieutenant Hess and his copilot, Lieutenant Matthew Vanderslice, showed exemplary aeronautical skill as they navigated through extreme conditions, facing no overhead cover through ice, lightning, and unrelenting snow squalls, all of which resulted in very little visibility. After finding the *Sedona*, he directed the survivors to abandon ship and swim toward the awaiting rescue swimmer, Petty Officer Staph. Upon failure of the primary hoist system, he expertly maneuvered the aircraft to coordinate with Petty Officer Suba, the on-board flight mechanic, to successfully lift Petty Officer Staph and the survivors out of the frigid, stormy seas. He then safely brought everyone back to the airfield, landing the aircraft despite whiteout conditions and extremely low

visibility. Lieutenant Hess' extraordinary skill and quick thinking under desperate conditions were instrumental in saving lives.

Today, Lieutenant Hess continues to serve in the Coast Guard at Air Station Kodiak, Alaska as a MH-60 Jayhawk Aircraft Commander. His wife, Kimberly, is also a Coast Guard pilot, and they have four children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in honor of Lieutenant John Hess, who perfectly exemplifies the highest standards of the United States Coast Guard. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this distinguished member of our Armed Services and wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAN MORTON UPON RECEIVING THE DR. BETTYE MYERS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stan Morton on receiving the United Way Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award for his service to the local community.

Prior to his retirement last month, Stan Morton served as the President of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, Denton since March 2003. His impact in the community rivals his accomplishments as the leader of the hospital. Stan served on the board of directors for United Way of Denton County for nine years, is a past board chair and, upon completing his service on the board, was honored with the distinction of Lifetime Member.

In addition to serving as United Way of Denton County's board chair, Stan also served as the 2006 Campaign Chair. Under Stan's leadership, the organization reached the \$2 million fundraising threshold for the first time in the organization's history.

While serving on the Health Services of North Texas Board of Directors, Stan was instrumental in positioning them to successfully apply for Federally Qualified Health Center designation.

Recipients of this prestigious Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award are dedicated to helping others and promoting human welfare and have shown active engagement in the community. I would like to congratulate Stan Morton who is well deserving of this award and thank him for his tireless service to our community.

PASTOR IRENE STAGGERS HARRIS

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Irene Staggers Harris. Pastor Irene Staggers Harris was canonized a Bishop in December of 2013 and has been selected as the first woman president of the South East Dade Ministerial Alliance.

God placed Bishop Harris in a position to make a difference in her family, her church,

and in the community-at-large. After receiving her education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and graduating from the South Dade Senior High School, she sought higher education and attended the Miami Dade Community College. Following her academic endeavors, Bishop Harris was employed at the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant for numerous years before hearing the call from God to embrace full-time ministry in the Lord's Church.

After being licensed and ordained an Elder by the House of God Saints in Christ, Inc., Bishop Harris led the congregation of the Greater St. Matthews Holiness Church where she extended the church name to include and embrace the "Temple of Love". In October of 1997, Bishop Harris became the Shepherd of Greater St. Matthews Holiness Church and communicated to her congregation a message of dependence on the Word of the Lord.

Bishop Irene Staggers Harris has dedicated her life to the Call of God. Her invaluable contributions to the Miami-Dade community serve as the embodiment of her selflessness. I commend Bishop Harris for her unyielding commitment to the word of God and love for all people. She will undoubtedly continue to serve admirably as the president of the South East Dade Ministerial Alliance.

RECOGNIZING JIM HARRIGER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE VICTORY MISSION OF SPRINGFIELD, MO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Jim Harriger for his role in leading the Victory Mission of Springfield, Missouri, for the last 23 years.

The Victory Mission is a non-denominational ministry which offers educational and emergency services to the community of Springfield. The ministry offers rehabilitative and conciliatory services, as well as providing food and education for those struggling with financial turmoil. It is a certified member of the national Association of Gospel Rescue Missions and has been a pillar of the Springfield community since its founding in 1976.

Under Harriger's leadership, the Victory Mission has expanded and improved in significant ways. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Victory Trade School, which has helped countless citizens on their way to obtaining a productive career. The Mission has also drastically expanded their ability to help the needy in Springfield, feeding thousands of hungry people and offering a safe and supportive environment for those who needed help in their daily lives.

Jim retired from his position as Executive Director of the Victory Mission after a 23-year career. Far from being the type of man to sit idly in retirement, Jim believes that his next step in life will be just as exciting as his time with the Victory Mission, and will likely involve helping others improve their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Harriger is not only a dedicated member of the Springfield community, but an embodiment of the ideals that we hold dear in Missouri. He has demonstrated compassion, a commitment to helping his fellow

man and has gone above and beyond to lead the Victory Mission in their admirable goals. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in appreciation for his accomplishments.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS WILLIE BARRAZA POST 9173

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Willie Barraza Post 9173 in my district of El Paso, Texas. The Post was founded in 1949 and is named after Mr. Willie Barraza, an Army Sergeant from an area in El Paso known as Smeltertown who went Missing in Action during World War II. Smeltertown is tied to El Paso as a historical location where workers of the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) resided and from where many of these workers decided to serve our country during WWII. The Willie Barraza Post is an important veteran service organization that has a longstanding tradition of aiding veterans, their families and the El Paso community.

The Willie Barraza Post is a leader among El Paso's veteran service organization community, with 300 members dedicated to serving Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists and their families as well as others in my district. The Post has helped fund and organize the VFW Voice of Democracy essay contest in the El Paso region, providing scholarships for students and a chance for these students to compete and showcase their writing talents at the state and national levels.

The Willie Barraza Post also works to ensure that Service Members at Fort Bliss are supported. Recently, the Post adopted a regiment from Fort Bliss and corresponded with these Soldiers while they were stationed in Afghanistan. Members also honor Active Duty Service Members with welcome back and farewell picnics.

I am proud to know that great veteran service organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars Willie Barraza Post 9173 are present in my district. The Post strives year-after-year to honor veterans, care for America's Service Members and their families at Fort Bliss and support our community, and for that I thank them.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS P. RUFER UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Thomas P. Rufer for his service at the University of North Texas since his arrival in August of 2006. Retiring as Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, Tom, as he is known on campus, has been responsible for the leadership and management

of seven auxiliary service operations on UNT's Denton Campus. In this role, he oversaw the operations of Student Housing and Residence Life, the University Union, Summer Conferences, Campus Vending Services. Tom also served as the contract administrator for the UNT Bookstore and the self-operated Food Services, the Gateway Center and Coliseum. It is in the Gateway Center and Coliseum where I have experienced first-hand the quality and service UNT students and staff provide under his capable direction.

Prior to arriving in Denton, Tom worked in the hospitality and higher education industries for over 25 years, which proved to be excellent preparation for effectively managing all aspects of his position with UNT overseeing a breadth and variety of services necessary on a campus with over 37,000 students. Serving during a time of continued growth, Tom's efforts in expanding operations have allowed him to leave an indelible mark on the campus in the day-to-day operations management of food and facilities, but also in the campus facilities with the construction of Rawlins Hall and the opening of the new \$137 million Student Union Building—the largest construction project in the university's 125 year history.

Due to Tom's professionalism and commitment to service, the students and the greater Denton Community have reaped the benefits of the efficiency and discipline he has brought to the campus. On behalf of the 26th Congressional District, I also thank him for his service years to our nation in the Air Force and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

**JOHN AND PATRICIA MANSON'S
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish John and Patricia Manson of Sun City Center, in the 17th District of Florida, a happy 50th wedding anniversary.

On January 29, 2016, John and Patricia celebrated their golden anniversary. Fifty years together is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the love and devotion John and Patricia share. Nothing attests to their love better than the lives of their six children and eleven grandchildren.

John and Patricia also share a long history of service. John spent his career as an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and came out of retirement to return to federal service under the Department of Homeland Security after the attacks on September 11, 2001. After raising five boys and one girl, Patricia worked as a substitute teacher and also worked with children with emotional and mental disabilities.

Patricia and John Manson have also been dedicated volunteers. Both have spent thousands of hours as Boy Scout and Cub Scout leaders during their children's scouting years, serving in every role possible from Den Leader and Assistant Scoutmaster to Boy Scout Troop Committee Chairman. In retirement they have continued their volunteer work in the Sun City Center area with their local Catholic church as leaders in St. Vincent de Paul, serving the poor and vulnerable in the surrounding

areas. In addition to their work with the Catholic Church, they also volunteer with the Florida Guardian Ad Litem program serving as court-appointed advocates for vulnerable children appearing in Florida's dependency courts.

Patricia and John instilled their commitment to service in their children, four of which served in the United States Marine Corps—where all but one Manson Marine saw combat in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

It is with deep respect that I commend John and Patricia for their dedication to one another as well as their nation and community. It is an honor to represent them in Congress, and to be a part of this celebration. I join their children John, Christopher, Patrick, Andrew, Peter and Sarah in wishing them a very happy 50th wedding anniversary and many blessings in the years ahead.

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE
FOR HILL 64**

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the family of the late Corporal Jerry Clark Burkhead, to commemorate the brave sacrifice of Corporal Burkhead and his fellow Marines who were lost in the Battle for Hill 64 on February 8, 1968 during the Vietnam War. His family asked me to submit the following remarks:

Corporal (CPL) Jerry Clark Burkhead, United States Marine Corps, will forever be remembered by family and friends for his caring heart, unwavering loyalty, mischievous nature, and wry sense of humor. Those who knew Jerry well lived fuller lives because of his presence in theirs. Jerry was born in Justisville, Virginia. Jerry is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Burkhead and brother to Maxine Cherrix (Esley), Colleen Walker (Brice), Janet Williams (Alton), Shirley Johnson (Aaron), Virginia Burkhead, Judi Zimmerman (Doug), Edwyn (Winnie), Dumont (Peggy), Lindo (Pat), Joe (Shirley), and John Daniel (JD). Jerry's large family was the center of his life and the source of his strong character and values. He was a 1966 graduate of Parksley High School and a member of Zion Baptist Church. He joined the United States Marine Corps and deployed from Camp Pendleton, California to the Republic of Vietnam (ROV) in November 1967. On February 8, 1968, during the Tet Offensive by the North Vietnamese Army, Jerry was killed in action in Quang Tri, South Vietnam—officially the Republic of Vietnam (1955 to 1975). This is the story of Corporal Jerry Burkhead and the brave Marines who fought for Hill 64 during the Vietnam War.

CPL Jerry Burkhead was an M-60 Machine-Gun Squad Leader in Weapons Platoon reinforcing 1st Rifle Platoon of Alpha Company 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment (A CO 1/9) in I Corps, the ROV. The 1/9, the "Walking Dead", were rapidly moved from Camp Evans and flown in by helicopter to the Khe Sanh Combat Base (KSCB) on January 22, 1968. Their mission was to protect the southern perimeter of the 26th Marines (reinforced) at the KSCB.

The 1st Platoon of A CO 1/9 (reinforced) was assigned a forward defensive position

called the Alpha-1 outpost. The Alpha-1 outpost was a small hill named Hill 64 because of the 62 Marines, including Jerry, and two Navy Corpsmen, who were dug in at a defensive position. Hill 64 was 60 meters long, 40 meters wide, and 20 meters in height. In other words, Hill 64 was shaped like a football with a perimeter of concertina wire, tangle-foot single strand barbed wire, and Claymore mines connected by integrated and concentric trenches with bunkers throughout, dug deep and lined with sand bags. The Hill 64 Marines dug and fortified their position for two weeks while the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) was frequently trying to kill them with artillery and sniper rounds. Somehow, these Marines survived with minimum water, food, sleep, and were exposed to the elements while surrounded by tens of thousands of NVA assault troops. Hill 64, manned by 64 young and brave Americans, was detached from any friendly forces, due to its location 600 meters west of the 1/9 Command Post Perimeter and a mile from the KSCB in the middle of no-man's land.

The NVA moved past Hill 64 for the attack at the KSCB with several NVA Divisions in the immediate area, or staged nearby. The NVA had been ferociously attacking other nearby bases, camps, and hills almost every day for weeks prior to the attack on Hill 64, in an effort to completely isolate the KSCB. At 4:15 a.m. on the foggy morning of February 8, 1968, the Battle for Hill 64 began with a barrage of mortars, recoilless rifles, satchel charges, RPGs, and automatic weapons, in a determined multi-pronged assault by a reinforced battalion from the 101D Regiment of the 325C NVA Division against the "Walking Dead" platoon.

The overwhelming attack by the NVA on the waiting 1st Platoon (reinforced) of A CO 1/9 Marines on Hill 64 is an example of some of the most brutal combat of the Vietnam War. These tenacious foes were locked in savage trench warfare, and often engaged in hand-to-hand combat. The 1st Platoon (reinforced) of A CO 1/9 Marines held against a numerically superior NVA force on Hill 64.

From the USMC, 1/9 perimeter, Alpha Company Commander Captain "Mac" Radcliffe bravely led twenty volunteers from 2 squads of the 2nd Platoon A CO 1/9 to relieve his brave Marines on Hill 64, and systematically cleared all remaining NVA early on February 8, 1968. CPL Jerry Clark Burkhead was 21 years old as he and his "Brother" Marines fought for each other, Hill 64, A CO 1/9, the "Walking Dead", the KSCB, I Corps, the RVN, and America. Sadly, 28 brave Americans were killed in action that foggy morning. The Battle for Hill 64 was the last all-out attack by the NVA on the KSCB American and Allied Forces during the 77 day siege of the KSCB. All KSCB veterans from January 20th to April 1, 1968 later received the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action against the numerically superior NVA forces. Devotion to duty by A CO 1/9 Marines was exemplified during the Battle of Hill 64.

Captain "Mac" Radcliffe said of those who fought in the Battle for Hill 64: "There is a price for freedom, it is called obedience. Obedience to country, to the call it places upon its young men in war, and obedience to oneself. The men in this story paid that price, some with their very lives. We honor them with the memory of their sacrifice. May it never be forgotten?"

CPL Jerry Clark Burkhead, USMC, was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation (January 20, 1968 to April 1, 1968), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Tet Counteroffensive Campaign Bronze Battle Star (January 30, 1968 to April 1, 1968), and the Vietnam Campaign Medal for his efforts and sacrifice during the Battle for Hill 64.

Jerry: we miss you every day, love you every second, and mourn your passing while bravely and selflessly defending the freedom of people everywhere and these United States of America while so young and strong in life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JACK REED, SR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of one of Mississippi's most dedicated citizens, Mr. Jack Reed, Sr. Albert Einstein said, "What is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right." This quote comes to mind when I reflect on the phenomenal life's work of Jack Reed. Even if it was not popular at the time, he always strived to support policies that he believed would improve the state. A dynamic figure, he was a successful business leader and devoted himself to economic development and community service.

After serving in World War II and graduating from Vanderbilt University and New York University, Mr. Reed returned home to Tupelo to work for the family business, Reed's retail store. In this role, he grew the family legacy and successfully expanded the business to other regions in the state. As the first Chairman of the State Board of Education, he was instrumental in education reform and was an advocate and powerful voice for desegregation in the South. His accomplishments and leadership roles are both impressive and far-reaching. He chaired the Yocona Area Council of Boy Scouts of America and was a founder and long-serving Board of Directors member of LIFT, Mississippi's first community action agency. He served as president and was a member of the Executive Committee of both the Community Development Foundation and CREATE, Inc. His reach and influence in community projects and initiatives was truly remarkable and these only serve as a few examples of his exemplary commitment to making Mississippi a better place to live and raise a family.

Most importantly, Mr. Reed was a man of family and faith. In 1950, he married Frances Camille Purvis and together they have four children, twelve grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. He was a staple at First United Methodist Church where he also taught an adult Sunday school class. It is often stated that Jack Reed was "the best governor Mississippi never had." His legacy is one of service and dedication to leave Mississippi a better place than he found it. Without a doubt, he accomplished that goal. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mr. Reed's family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call vote 50 on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for one roll call vote on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Roll Call Vote Number 50—Palazzo of Mississippi Amendment No. 7—no.

CONGRATULATING CAITLIN KEMP-SHUKWIT ON RECEIVING THE CITIZEN SCHOLAR AWARD FROM MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Caitlin Kemp-Shukwit, an outstanding student at Missouri State University, on her selection to receive the Citizen Scholar Award.

Each year, this prestigious award is given by Missouri State University's Board of Governors to students who have contributed to the university, furthered the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments and/or in important service activities in the community. Since the award was created in 2007, only forty-seven students have been recognized for their stellar achievements.

Caitlin, from St. Louis, Missouri, is one of only six students to receive the Citizen Scholar award this year. She is a senior majoring in both Dance Performance and Public Relations at Missouri State University. She hopes to travel the world and explore different cultures after graduation, which is emblematic of her drive for cultural enrichment and appreciation. Her professors praise her exemplary leadership skills, which she uses to benefit both the college and local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Caitlin Kemp-Shukwit's accomplishments have set a great example of what a Citizen Scholar should be, this award represents a great deal of her hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent students like her and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved achievement.

COMMEMORATING JULIE BAKER DOBSKI, RECIPIENT OF ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDERS DAY HONORARY DEGREE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Julie Baker Dobski, the 2016 Honorary Degree Recipient of Illinois State University Founders Day.

Julie Baker Dobski, a citizen of Bloomington-Normal since 1988, is a successful business person and philanthropist who serves her fellow citizens in more ways than one. In 1982, she and her husband, Bob, opened their first McDonald's in Farmington, Missouri and has since expanded their franchise to serve Big Macs and Happy Meals in Bloomington, Normal, McLean and Gibson City. However, she soon realized that local boys and girls were hungry for something greater such as knowledge. In 2004, Julie fulfilled those needs by opening her first of three Little Jewels Learning Centers. These centers provide family-oriented child care with a variety of programs and activities that engage the children and prepare them for school in a safe, loving, and nurturing environment.

Julie continued her service and devotion in the community by serving on various executive boards such as the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, United Way as well as many others. She currently serves on the Baby Fold, BN Advantage Leadership Council, and the Illinois State University College of Business Advisory Board.

In addition, her great leadership does not go unrecognized as she was awarded with the McDonald's People Award and the McDonald's Ronald Award twice. Under her tenure as president of the Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary, her club was donned the Club of the Year. Because of her values of leadership, hard work, and passion to help others, those around her also achieve success. In short, where ever she goes, success ultimately follows.

Again, I want to congratulate Julie Baker Dobski and her continued service to the 18th District.

CONGRATULATING WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a group of outstanding students from West Valley High School in Fairbanks, Alaska who participated in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program.

The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, complements regular school curricula by providing upper elementary, middle, and high school students

with an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of U.S. constitutional democracy.

The We the People program's culminating activity is a simulated Congressional hearing in which students evaluate and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. These young constitutional experts from West Valley High School won the state competition in Alaska on December 2, 2015 and qualified for the We the People national finals competition held in Washington, D.C.

The students from West Valley High School who qualified to compete at the national competition are:

Alicia Alabran, Dylan Brabham, Jennifer Campbell, Mitch Wilson, Robin O'Donoghue, Ileana Casiano, Skylar Watt, Emma Wiegand, Samuel Hiltenbrand, Daniel Hornbuckle, Teddy Edquid, Colton Scribner, Teresa Wrobel, Jacqueline Lundberg, Natilly Hovda, Carl Birchard, Caleb Moretz, Jonathan Gates, Jewel Hediger, Siani Post, Amber Szmyd, Jenna Zusi-Cobb, Nicholas Kowalski, Tara Vaughn, Brinley Jarvis, Hunter Meltvedt, and Celia Richards.

I would like to recognize their teacher Amy Galloway for her dedication and contributions as one of the top civics teachers in the country. I would also like to recognize Alaska's We the People state coordinator, Maida Buckley, who has done such an outstanding job throughout the years organizing and directing the program for our state.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ARTHUR OBERMAYER

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a dear friend and mentor who passed away recently.

Dr. Arthur Obermayer was a talented entrepreneur, generous philanthropist, and a passionate advocate. He committed his life to making his community, our country and the world a better place.

Throughout his life, he showed how words like justice and opportunity were not just words, but principles to be pursued and, if necessary, fought for.

He was a man of many accomplishments, among them, advocating for federal investment in small businesses and focusing on and fostering research and development. In 1982, due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Obermayer the US Small Business Innovation Research grant was created with the support of my late uncle, Senator Ted Kennedy.

In a true testament to this remarkable accomplishment, the Obermayer family was inducted into the Small Business Innovation Research Hall of Fame for their pioneering efforts in a White House ceremony last June.

Dr. Obermayer inspired many, and though our country has lost a champion his values and vision live on through all those he touched.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Obermayer Family during this difficult time.

May his memory be a blessing for us all.

HONORING BILL BARNETT FOR HIS SERVICE AS CHRISTIAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Barnett, for his service as County Commissioner to Christian County for more than twenty years.

After two decades, Bill has now decided to retire from this long held position. Bill began a career of outstanding service in 1994, and is now one of less than a handful of county employees who has more than twenty years of experience. His passion for his work stemmed from his passion for helping fellow residents.

During his time serving as Commissioner, Bill has contributed to his community in many ways and accomplished much, but none he is more proud of than the barn that was built for the county's road crews, finally providing them with a central location to better serve the community. Over the years he handled adversity with disdain and dignity, balancing the community's need for services and the community's desire to maintain a low cost of living. Bill saw taxes as a last resort, traditionally setting the property tax of his district at zero.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Barnett's work as County Commissioner has set a great example of exceptional public service for the people of Christian County. I am proud to represent citizens like him and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement from service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,975,719,827,131.21. We've added \$9,349,942,778,218.13 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. Had I been present for roll call vote number 50, the Palazzo Amendment to H.R. 3700, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote number 51, the Green Amendment to H.R. 3700, I would have voted "nay."

RUSSIAN INCURSION OF TURKISH AIRSPACE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call our attention to Russia's unprovoked aggression against a friend and NATO ally of the United States.

As you may know, in recent months, the Republic of Turkey has reported several incidents of Russian incursion of Turkish airspace. As my colleagues will remember, in November 2015, the Turkish military was forced to shoot down a Russian warplane that entered its airspace. That action was condemned by the Russian Federation, but Turkish officials have repeatedly disclosed that they provided significant warnings to those pilots, as well as allowed ample time for the plane to correct its course. This shows the Russian incursion into Turkish airspace was no incursion.

This weekend, the Pentagon confirmed another such incident of a Russian fighter jet entering Turkish airspace without authorization. While this incident did not result in any violence or loss of life, it is disappointing to see continued disrespect from Russia towards the Turkish boundary. The Department of Defense released a statement calling on the Russians "to respect Turkish airspace and cease activities that risk further heightening instability in the region."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Pentagon and the Obama Administration for standing with Turkey and the rest of our NATO allies in condemning Russia's unprovoked aggression. The world is most stable when the United States acts in conjunction with its partners around the world in standing up to those who would do them harm. I urge the Administration to continue to stand strong with our friends in Turkey as well as with our NATO allies around the world in condemning this unprovoked encroachment and protecting allies' borders.

CONGRATULATING MELANIE MORGAN ON RECEIVING THE CITIZEN SCHOLAR AWARD FROM MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Melanie Morgan, an outstanding student at Missouri State University, on her selection to receive the Citizen Scholar Award.

Each year, this prestigious award is given by Missouri State University's Board of Governors to students who have contributed to the university, furthered the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments and/or in important service activities in the community. Since the award was created in 2007, only forty-seven students have been recognized for their stellar achievements.

Melanie, from Springfield, Missouri, was one of a handful of exceptional students to receive

the award this year. She is currently a senior dietetics major with minors in biomedical sciences and international nutrition. Melanie has been recognized for her dedication to help and serve the community, never focusing on herself and demonstrating a strong desire to help others.

Mr. Speaker, Melanie Morgan's accomplishments have set a great example of what a Citizen Scholar should be, this award represents a great deal of her hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent students like her and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved achievement.

IN HONOR OF HUGH VICTOR
BROWNE II

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences and to honor the memory of Cpl. Hugh Victor Browne II for his achievements, contributions, and service to his community as a Marine, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

A life-long Woodbury resident, Cpl. Browne graduated from Woodbury High School in June 1943 and was recruited into the Montford Point Marines, the military's first all-black Marine unit. Among the first from New Jersey recruited as a black Marine, Cpl. Browne, along with other 20,000 black men, dealt with racism and segregation and ultimately helped to break the Marine color barrier in the midst of World War II.

In 2012, Cpl. Browne, along with his fellow servicemen in the Montford Point Marines, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, our nation's highest civilian honor for distinguished achievement in the military.

Cpl. Browne, the only surviving sibling of six children born to Baptist minister Rev. Sylvanus and Lovie Browne, was predeceased by his wife, Erma, and son Hugh Victor Browne III. However, his legacy will continue to serve as an inspiration to millions of Americans through his surviving children, 12 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Cpl. Hugh Victor Browne II was an extraordinary man and proud United States Marine. He and his fellow black servicemen fought not only our nation's external enemies, but the scourge of racism and segregation and conquered them both. I join with my community and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements and selfless service of this truly exceptional man.

IN APPRECIATION FOR THE LIFE
AND SERVICE OF ROGER HAGGINS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the esteemed life of Roger Haggins, a clerk for the House Office Buildings. A kind and generous man, Roger's life was tragically cut short on January 8. For a dozen years Roger

was our coworker in the halls of Congress. After graduating from high school as an honors student in 2003, he began working for the Architect of the Capitol as an elevator operator and continued to assist the Members and staff of this body admirably. This honorable young man was senselessly killed and was, as far too many of our citizens are, victimized by the epidemic of gun violence that infects the United States.

Roger was among the many whose exemplary work and commitment supporting the functioning of the House is rarely given its just appreciation and recognition. To his family, friends, and coworkers in this time of grief, I extend my heartfelt sympathy. In the words of President Lincoln, "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming."

Roger will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM CLAYTON
CALDWELL

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize both the life and humanitarian efforts of William C. Caldwell, III. He is the son of Bill and Marion Caldwell, scion of Wica Manufacturing. Mr. William Caldwell is a generous Christian of known faith and good deed and I take this opportunity to commend him for both.

William C. Caldwell, III, a lay expert on amateur and professional basketball, baseball, and football teams, and Duke University's number one sports fan, grew up in Cocoa Beach, FL prior to graduating from Rollins College and, later, attending Duke Business School.

A private investor, philanthropist, and internationally-respected numismatist, Bill Caldwell recently bequeathed a record gift to be divided equally between Rollins College in Winter Park, FL and Duke University's Fuqua School of Business in Durham, NC.

Along with his gift he stated, "I want to shine a spotlight on these beloved, but demanding, institutions that I have been so proud to be a part of. I decided to align this joyous announcement with the July 1, 2015 start date for incoming Rollins president, Grant Cornwell, who brings his international prominence as a liberal arts champion and scholar to the Winter Park, FL campus which also includes the highly-ranked Crummer Graduate School of Business."

Mr. Caldwell's bequests are fixed portions of his estate and each beneficiary will eventually expect to receive a generous donation amounting to seven figures.

Fellow Rollins graduate, William M. Graves, Jr., who is an executor of Mr. Caldwell's estate as well as his personal representative and spokesperson, explains why he was moved to assist his friend in giving back to institutions that played very significant roles in his life:

The reason I volunteered to help my best friend, Bill Caldwell, with all of this is that I've found him to be the most loving, caring, loyal, and generous individual imaginable. Now, Winter Park and Durham are finding out what I've known for more than 40 years. Bill Caldwell is an extremely humble, unsung hero who deserves to be widely-ap-

plauded for his selfless compassion and kind-hearted philanthropy. In addition to his bequests to Rollins College and Duke University, he is also championing with his philanthropy: The American Diabetes Association, The American Lung Association, The American Numismatic Association, and The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Andrew Carnegie gave away most of his wealth. Warren Buffett has given away most of his wealth. You can add Bill Caldwell to the list. God Bless You, Bill Caldwell.

PASSING OF DOCTOR CYNTHIA
GORALNIK

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, on December 29th, 2015, Phoenix lost a dedicated doctor, beloved mother and friend. Dr. Cynthia Goralnik worked as a revered radiologist who served the community for many years. She was much loved by all who knew her, from the patients she cared for, her coworkers to whom she was an inspiration, her family, and her friends.

CONGRATULATING NADIA
PSHONYAK ON RECEIVING THE
CITIZEN SCHOLAR AWARD FROM
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nadia Pshonyak, an outstanding student at Missouri State University, on her selection to receive the Citizen Scholar Award.

Each year, this prestigious award is given by Missouri State University's Board of Governors to students who have contributed to the university, furthered the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments and/or in important service activities in the community. Since the award was created in 2007, only forty-seven students have been recognized for their stellar achievements.

Nadia, from West Plains, Missouri, is one of only six students to receive the Citizen Scholar award this year. She has obtained her Associates degree from Missouri State University, and plans to enlist in the Peace Corps and to eventually obtain a Ph.D. in a related field. This is evidence of her passion to not only better herself, but to also better the situation of people worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Nadia Pshonyak's accomplishments have set a great example of what a Citizen Scholar should be, this award represents a great deal of her hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent students like her and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday during the last series of votes. Had I been here, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Vote No. 51, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF MABEL MCCLANAHAN MURPHREE, DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the career and retirement of Mabel McClanahan Murphree, Ph.D., who has served as the District Director for the First Congressional District of Mississippi for the past five years. Not only has Dr. Murphree been an essential asset as District Director, but her involvement and active participation in the community is commendable and far-reaching.

Dr. Murphree, is a former director of the Appalachian Regional Commission Office for Mississippi and a former senior vice president of the CREATE Foundation. In addition, Dr. Murphree served as the first Director of the Mississippi Corridor Consortium, which is a partnership among East Mississippi Community College, Itawamba Community College, and Northeast Mississippi Community College. This partnership was formed to strengthen the institutions' ability to provide services on a regional basis in the areas of workforce, community, and economic development as well as to increase the opportunities to leverage funding for regional initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels. Dr. Murphree has been involved in a variety of educational, economic development, community development, and telecommunication projects that range from designing teacher technology training programs to helping bring broadband access to Northeast Mississippi.

She holds a doctorate degree from Mississippi State University in education with an emphasis in technology and a minor in curriculum and instruction. She also holds degrees from Mississippi University for Women and the University of Mississippi, and has received post-graduate training from Harvard University. Dr. Murphree was honored in 2014 by being awarded the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award by Mississippi University for Women.

Dr. Murphree serves or has served on the Boards of Directors for the Mississippi Economic Growth Alliance and Point of Presence (MEGAPOP), North Mississippi Medical Center, The Learning Skills Center, CATCH Kids, The Link Center, and the Community Development Foundation as well as the City of Tupelo's Planning Committee. She is a past President of the Natchez Trace Parkway As-

sociation and a Life Member of the Tupelo Junior Auxiliary.

She was born and raised in Columbus, Mississippi. Presently she resides with her husband in Tupelo, Mississippi, where they are members of First United Methodist Church. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

The people of the First Congressional District of Mississippi were well served under Dr. Murphree's leadership and her wisdom and positive attitude will be greatly missed. Her achievements will have a lasting impact on the First Congressional District and our state, and I know she will continue to accomplish great things for the state of Mississippi. I would like to thank Dr. Murphree for her years of dedication and service to the First Congressional District and our state, and wish her the best of luck in the next chapter of her life.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church for its designation as the oldest African-American church in South Miami-Dade County. The church property was identified by the City of Homestead as a significant historic structure and I truly believe it warrants this recognition.

The first permanent church was built in 1911 by Linton Connors and the wooden frame building was given the name "Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church". Reverend W.M. Baker served as the first pastor of the church and during his tenure, the reverend organized their first choir and established the missionary society 'Home Mission' to aid those in need within the community. This Mission continues to be in existence to this day.

Since then, the Saint Paul Missionary Church has continued to give back to the community through its organization of programs that allow its faithful members to serve. I would like to express my gratitude to church leaders and congregations, past and present. You have all been essential in sustaining the fortitude of this truly historic place of worship. May God continue to bless you.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINA ANTON**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christina Anton, a student in my district who was chosen to receive a grant to do a community service project through GenerationOn and the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association. GenerationOn is a global youth service movement with the goal to empower youth to change the world around them through service to both their communities and countries abroad. GenerationOn is the culmination of a number of youth service organizations that was formed

five years ago in 2010. The National Rural Electric Cooperative is very selective, choosing only one Youth Tour student from each state to receive a grant. Christina Anton is an exceptional student and strives to create a better world for herself and her peers through community service. Her community service project is one that is of great importance to Virginia's 10th Congressional District, and concerns an issue I have been working on for a number of years, Lyme disease.

The town of Clifton has a beautiful park that gives the community access to a number of trails. The amount of ticks has grown quickly in recent years and has caused people to avoid the area. As a direct result of the increase in ticks, a campsite in the park has become overgrown. Christina aims to partner with my former colleague in the Virginia House of Delegates, Delegate Tim Hugo, Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herry, and the Clifton Betterment Association to assist with Lyme disease prevention and clean up the campsite. This is an admirable project that will greatly contribute to the prevention of Lyme disease, a terrible and debilitating disease that affects so many. I truly appreciate all that Christina is doing to help our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR ALLY TURKEY**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our allies in Turkey as they face encroachment on their territorial integrity and recover from devastating terror attacks in Istanbul and cities across the country.

Turkey is a longstanding friend and ally of the United States. From the Cold War to the fight against international terror, we have stood together against challenges and threats. During the Cold War, Turkey held down NATO's longest border with the Soviet Union. After the Soviet Union fell, greater threats such as terrorism, drug and human trafficking and extremism emerged. Again, Turkey remained on the front line of NATO, exposed to these threats.

The suicide attacks in Istanbul perpetrated by ISIS are yet another reminder of the dangers our allies face caused by the instability and uncertainty in the Middle East. Syria has become a breeding ground for terrorism and extremism, and is proof that inaction also carries a cost. The inability of the Administration to show leadership in the face of rising threats has caused the situation to spiral even further out of control.

Our ally Turkey has suffered from numerous acts of terrorism including suicide bombings in Suruc, Ankara, and others, which have cost thousands of lives. This situation cannot continue. The U.S. must show leadership.

These recent developments highlight the importance of Turkey as an ally and call for stronger U.S.-Turkish relations to help counter the threats faced by NATO and our allies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed two Roll Call votes yesterday, February 2, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the Palazzo Amendment (Roll Call vote 50), and yea on the Al Green of Texas Amendment (Roll Call vote 51).

HONORING SUPERVISOR JANET CLARKE ON HER SERVICE TO LOUDOUN COUNTY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Janet Clarke on her retirement from the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and I want to take this opportunity to thank Supervisor Clarke for her extraordinary service to the people of western Loudoun County, as Blue Ridge District Supervisor. My congressional district includes all of Loudoun County, and it has been a privilege to have worked with an elected official of such high caliber and commitment.

The Blue Ridge district is situated east of the Blue Ridge Mountains in some of the most scenic countryside imaginable. Encompassing 45% of the area of the county, the Blue Ridge District includes the beautiful, historic towns of Purcellville, where Janet earlier served on the Town Council, Middleburg, Round Hill, Hillsboro, Aldie, St. Louis, Bluemont, Arcola, Brambleton, Upperville and Philomont.

From the moment she was sworn in to office, Janet Clarke began taking action to preserve and protect the special history and rural character of western Loudoun County, by finding ways to strengthen its economic viability and the quality of life of its people.

Supervisor Clarke was a strong ally of the Rural Economic Development Council, an important advisory board of Loudoun County government that promotes the sustainable growth and vitality of Loudoun County's agricultural, horticultural, equine and other rural industries. And to bolster the effectiveness of the commission, she successfully advocated for the hiring of another staff member, dedicated to supporting the commission's work.

Another aspect of maintaining the rural character of the region is the ongoing challenge of maintaining roughly 280 miles of rural roads. After organizing meetings with their western Loudoun constituents, Supervisor Clarke and her colleague, Supervisor Geary Higgins from the neighboring Catoclin District, with the legislative help of State Delegate Randy Minchew, worked with the Virginia Department of Transportation to initiate a repair and restoration project on gravel roads, prioritizing 11 roads that were in most need of repair.

To protect and enhance the quality of life of her constituents, Supervisor Clarke took on another vexing problem. Many of the people she represented could not obtain adequate

connectivity to the Internet. Collaborating with those who had an interest in improving the situation, she and Supervisor Higgins held a Broadband Summit at Woodgrove High School, that included a panel discussion consisting of members of the Loudoun County Communications Commission, Loudoun County Public Schools and other county experts and various improvements are taking place. While the broadband problem has not been fully solved, Supervisor Clarke and Supervisor Higgins are to be commended for initiating the Let's Stand for Broadband! movement, that is gradually resulting in better educational opportunities for students, expanding economic opportunities for businesses and providing greater public safety for western Loudoun residents.

Shortly after taking office, Supervisor Clarke immersed herself in another complex problem affecting the quality of life of her constituents. Although Lyme Disease is generally underreported, in 2011 alone, 261 cases of the disease from Loudoun County were reported to the Virginia Department of Health. Realizing that Loudoun County was at the epicenter of this epidemic, and after months of gathering information and speaking with Lyme experts and citizens, then Vice Chairman Clarke, along with her colleagues Supervisors Higgins and Ken Reid, put forth a Resolution and Proclamation Recognizing 2012 as Lyme Disease Awareness Year, as well as a 10-Point Action Plan to Mitigate Lyme Disease in Loudoun County. One of the action plan items was the creation of the Loudoun Lyme Disease Commission which is made up of citizens and health care professionals with a strong interest in Lyme Disease prevention and education. The commission has been instrumental in implementing other provisions of the 10-point plan, including the development of educational materials for schools, information for the county website, and the launching of Lyme Education Forums throughout the county.

In August, 2013, the initiative of Supervisor Clarke and her two colleagues, entitled "Loudoun Targets Lyme," was recognized by the Virginia Association of Counties as a model government program in the area of Health and Human Services.

Janet Clarke was also a great champion of capital improvements for the people of her magisterial district. Her efforts included advancing the construction project for Loudoun Valley High School into the budget and onto the ballot for approval. She also secured funding to assist the town of Purcellville with improvements to Fireman's Field and to design the Purcellville to Franklin Park trail. Supervisor Clarke's efforts also led to the construction of the second entrance and exit to Woodgrove High School, the sidewalks in Middleburg and Purcellville, the Hillsboro water improvement project, the Upper Loudoun Youth Football League facility, and lighted fields at Franklin Park.

Supervisor Clarke's desire to protect and enhance the quality of life of the people she represented included standing with Delegate Randy Minchew and the Green Mill Preserve residents in stopping the expansion of the gas compression station and tirelessly working to ground the Red Hill water tower. These types of controversies often pitted one group of constituents against another, but Supervisor Clarke did not hesitate to take a stand and ad-

vocate for what she believed was in the best interests of her constituents.

At Thanksgiving in 2011, shortly after being elected to the office of County Supervisor, Janet Clarke wrote a message to her Blue Ridge District constituents promising three things: First, that she would work hard to preserve their community's culture and heritage; second, that she would represent their diverse interests and needs with an open door policy; and third, that because our "children are watching," she would attempt to do her work "in a respectful manner that they can be proud of and learn from." Mr. Speaker, in my view, Janet Clarke managed to fulfill these promises with grace, courage and compassion and our children and grandchildren will be the ultimate beneficiaries.

After having given so much of herself to protect and preserve the quality of life of others, it is understandable that Janet Clarke has decided to focus on her own quality of life, by spending more time with family, church and her own health and well-being, not to mention the job that helps provide financial sustenance for her and her family. Whatever she does in the next chapter of her life, whether it is in the area of education, mental health or some other societal need, I know that Janet Clarke will approach it with total commitment and effort and will continue to leave a lasting positive influence on the lives she will touch.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine worldwide threats.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2030, to allow the sponsor of an application for the approval of a targeted drug to rely upon data and information with respect to such sponsor's previously approved targeted drugs, S. 1622, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to devices,

S. 2014, to demonstrate a commitment to our Nation's scientists by increasing opportunities for the development of our next generation of researchers, S. 800, to improve, coordinate, and enhance rehabilitation research at the National Institutes of Health, S. 849, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases, an original bill entitled, "Preventing Superbugs and Protecting Patients Act", and an original bill entitled, "Improving Health Information Technology".

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense nuclear acquisition programs and the nuclear doctrine in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal interactions with state management of fish and wildlife.

SD-406

5 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the way forward in Syria and Iraq.

SVC-217

FEBRUARY 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the importance of enacting a new Water Resources Development Act.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 3572, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform, streamline, and make improvements to the Department of Homeland Security and support the Department's efforts to implement better policy, planning, management, and performance, S. 1526, to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, S. 236, to amend the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 to create an expedited procedure to enact recommendations of the Government Accountability Office for consolidation and elimination to reduce duplication, S. 1411, to amend the Act of August 25,

1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, S. 795, to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees, S. 2450, to amend title 5, United States Code, to address administrative leave for Federal employees, S. 2418, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish university labs for student-developed technology-based solutions for countering online recruitment of violent extremists, S. 2340, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, H.R. 3361, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Insider Threat Program, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, H.R. 1656 and an original bill entitled, "Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015", to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas, an original bill entitled, "DHS Acquisition and Accountability Reform Act", an original bill entitled, "Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act of 2016", an original bill entitled, "Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016", an original bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to build partnerships to prevent violence by extremists, an original resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring civil action to enforce a subpoena of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and the nomination of Beth F. Cobert, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine mental health and the justice system.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2017 for the Air Force.

SD-192

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine revenue proposals in the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine a new scam by global drug traffickers perpetrated against our nation's seniors.

SD-562

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the National Commission on the Future of the United States Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine agency discretion in setting and enforcing regulatory fines and penalties.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017.

SD-215

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 483, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and S. 524, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

MARCH 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine regulatory reforms to improve equity market structure.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

MARCH 8

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Forest Service.

SD-366